



From 1971–2000 to 1981–2010, just a simple shift?

A. Spekat and F. Kreienkamp

Climate and Environment Consulting Potsdam GmbH, Potsdam, Germany (arne.spekat@cec-potsdam.de)

Was the last winter's temperature average or above or below that average? Strange though this question may seem, the answer is in fact different when different 'climatologies' are used. Recently, a transition from one averaging period to another has begun. In several countries, the 1981-2010 reference period has been replacing the 1971-2000 period. The presentation will at first deal with background and consequences of using this new reference period. Moreover, visualizations of the different period-dependent climatologies as well as visualizations of anomalies with respect to these climatologies will be shown to give rise to awareness for the problem.